Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Tompkins County SWCD February, 8, 2016 170 Bostwick Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Present: David McKenna, Dan Carey, Alan Teeter, Aaron Ristow, Jim Dennis

Staff: Jon Negley, Kym Jackson, Paul Gier

Agencies: Justin Olsen, NRCS, Jennifer Doty & Erin Madden, FSA

Guests: Barry Goodrich

Dan Carey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31pm. A quorum was present.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Alan Teeter moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dave McKenna seconded. No discussion. Carried.

Reports of Other Agencies:

The NYS SWCC Report was reviewed by Jon. The District is in the midst of preparing the financial reports, including the Treasurer's Report, which is all due February 15th. He noted if the Environmental Protection Fund for 2016 is increased by the Governor and the Budget is passed, there would be a substantial increase in funding for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Part C funding could be increased from \$15,000 to approximately \$80,000. He reminded the Board that Part C funding is performance based and every effort should be made to complete each of the required components.

Jim Dennis arrived at 3:34pm

Jennifer Doty, FSA reported that their office is in the process of preparing CRP reenrollments. There are currently seven(7) Tompkins County contracts. Next year there may be more becoming due for conservation programs.

Justin Olsen, NRCS read their written report and it is attached. Jon noted the District closed out the Sweylaken's project and the Beck project with Scott Fickbohm from NYS on Friday, February 5th. Justin advised that the EQUIP criteria is getting stricter regarding resource concerns. Other programs such as Conservation Stewardship may apply in such cases where projects may not be approved.

Financial Report:

- D. McKenna moved to approve the financial reports for the month of January. A. Teeter seconded. Final payments will be made in the next week or so for closing out Beck's and Baker's projects. A vote was taken and the financial reports were approved. Motion Carried.
- D. McKenna moved to approve the February, 2016 Vouchers. J. Dennis seconded. Jon presented three(3) additional invoices which the District had just received and needed decisions made by the Board on whether to pay them. An invoice for the National Association of Conservation Districts membership drive was presented. D. McKenna moved to decline joining the Association. A. Ristow seconded. A vote was taken and the voucher was disapproved. Motion carried. Jon presented an invoice for the New York State Association of Conservation Districts membership. The Board consensus was the recommendation to wait until next year (2017) to review their progress and possibly join as members again. Jon presented an invoice from DLT Solutions for Autodesk, Government Subscription Renewal. The District uses the program mostly for streambank projects. The Board consensus was to leave the renewal decision up to Jon for DLT

Solutions. A vote was taken and the vouchers listed in the Board Packet were approved, and the possible payment of the invoice for DLT Solutions was approved. Motion Carried.

Staff/Project Reports:

Paul Gier provided an update for the STAIEP Grant. To date, he has made 14 site visits to area farms to review their projects. Of those 14 site visits, two(2) were manure storage type projects, and twelve(12) were barn related, whether new or included renovations. Ten(10) of the farms already had AEM profiles. Eleven(11) of the projects were in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range. Paul also attended an STAIEP overview presentation at Schuyler County in conjunction with Chemung County. The District will do a similar program and collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County on February 24th from 2pm to 4pm at their office.

Paul departed the meeting.

Old Business

Resolution #2015-57 – AMENDED - Approval to Change Insurance Agencies to Tompkins Trust Insurance
 Agencies, Inc. J. Dennis made the motion to approve, D. McKenna seconded. The process to change insurance
 agencies will begin again in December, 2016. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-57 –
 AMENDED was accepted. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Resolution #2016-17 Entering into Contract with Tompkins County for \$200,000 to conduct Hydrilla eradication project activities.
 D. McKenna made the motion to approve, J. Dennis seconded.
 J. Dennis noted the living wage is not currently being mandated.
 A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2016-17 was accepted.
 Motion carried.
- Resolution #2016-18 Adoption of Cooperator Agreement Form. D. Carey made the motion to approve, J. Dennis seconded. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2016-18 was accepted. Motion carried.
- <u>Formation of Finance and Personnel Committees</u>. The Finance Committee members will remain the same and are: Dan Carey, Chair; Alan Teeter; and Dave McKenna. The Personnel Committee members will remain the same and are: Aaron Ristow, Chair; Jim Dennis; and Dan Carey.

Announcements/Meetings:

Kym Jackson, Secretary	David McKenna, Treasurer
Respectfully Submitted:	
Next meeting date: March 14, 2016, at 3:30pm.	
D. Carey moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 4:46pm. Seconded by A. Ristow. Carried.	
Aaron Ristow will be teaching the Soil Health Workshop at the Water Quality Symposium.	